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Social Development: implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

South Africa:* draft resolution

Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995, and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held at Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[2] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the development goals contained therein, as well as the commitments made at major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, including the commitments made at the 2005 World Summit,[4]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

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Recalling further General Assembly resolution 60/209 of 19 December 2005 on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006),

Acknowledging that the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) launched after the World Summit for Social Development, in which Governments committed themselves to develop national strategies to eradicate absolute poverty and establish time-bound targets to substantially reduce poverty, has provided the long-term vision for sustained and concerted efforts at the national and international levels to eradicate poverty,

Recognizing that the implementation of the commitments made during the Decade has fallen short of expectations and that there is evidence of an inverse correlation between the promises made at Copenhagen and the results achieved thus far,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Emphasizing the need to strengthen the role of the Commission for Social Development for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Welcomes* the reaffirmation by Governments of their will and commitment to continue implementing the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action,[1] in particular to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and foster social integration to achieve stable, safe and just societies for all;

3. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Development Goals, are mutually reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent, people-centred approach to development;

4. *Reaffirms* that the Commission for Social Development continues to have the primary responsibility for the follow-up and review of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly and that it serves as the main United Nations forum for an intensified global dialogue on social development issues, and calls upon Member States, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and civil society to enhance their support to its work;

5. *Emphasizes* that the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit, have reinforced the priority and urgency of poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda;

[5] A/60/80.

6. *Emphasizes also* that poverty eradication policies should attack poverty by addressing its root and structural causes and manifestations, and that equity and the reduction of inequalities need to be incorporated in those policies;

7. *Stresses* that while economic growth is essential, entrenched inequality is an obstacle to the broad-based and sustained growth required for sustainable, inclusive people-centred development, and recognizes the need to balance measures to achieve growth with measures to achieve economic and social equity for there to be an impact on overall poverty levels;

8. *Recognizes* that the broad concept of social development affirmed by the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly has been weakened in national and international policymaking and that, while poverty eradication is a central part of development policy and discourse, further attention should be given to the other commitments agreed to at the Summit, in particular those concerning employment and social integration, which have also suffered from a general disconnect between economic and social policymaking;

9. *Stresses* that policies and programmes designed to achieve poverty eradication should include specific measures to foster social integration, including by providing marginalized socio-economic sectors and groups with equal access to opportunities and social protection;

10. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education and health care, increase the participation and integration of social groups, particularly youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and address the challenges posed by globalization and market-driven reforms on social development in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

11. *Reaffirms also* the commitment to employment policies that promote full and productive employment and decent work for all under conditions of equity, equality, security and dignity, and also reaffirms that employment creation should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies;

12. *Reaffirms further* the commitments made in "Meeting the special needs of Africa" at the 2005 World Summit,[4] underlines the call of the Economic and Social Council for enhanced coordination within the United Nations system and the ongoing efforts to harmonize the current initiatives on Africa, and requests the Commission for Social Development to continue to give due prominence in its work to the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[6]

13. *Reaffirms also* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

[6] A/57/304, annex.

14. *Reaffirms further*, in this context, that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including the least developed countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity;

15. *Stresses* that the international community should enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

16. *Welcomes* the increased resources that will become available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2015 and to reach at least 0.5 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance by 2010 as well as, pursuant to the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[7] 0.15 per cent to 0.2 per cent for the least developed countries by no later than 2010, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

17. *Welcomes also* innovative mechanisms of financing which contribute to the mobilization of resources for social development; in this regard recalls the New York Declaration on Action Against Hunger and Poverty of 20 September 2004, which launched the Action against Hunger and Poverty initiative and called for further attention to raise funds urgently needed to help meet the Millennium Development Goals and to complement and ensure long-term stability and predictability to foreign aid; and welcomes further the launching of the International Drug Purchase Facility on 19 September 2006, as the first multilateral initiative based on innovative financing funding aimed at scaling up access to diagnostics kits and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis for the poorest people in developing countries;

18. *Reaffirms* that social development requires the active involvement of all actors in the development process, including civil society organizations, corporations and small businesses, and that partnerships among all relevant actors are increasingly becoming part of national and international cooperation for social development, and also reaffirms that, within countries, partnerships among the Government, civil society and the private sector can contribute effectively to the achievement of social development goals;

19. *Underlines* the responsibility of the private sector, at both the national and the international levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, regarding not only the economic and financial but also the development, social, gender and environmental implications of their activities, their obligations towards their workers and their contributions to achieving sustainable development, including social development, and emphasizes the need to take concrete actions within the United Nations system and through the participation of all relevant stakeholders on corporate responsibility and accountability, including for the prevention or prosecution of corruption;

20. *Invites* the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions, the relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of

[7] A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

the United Nations system and other intergovernmental forums, within their respective mandates, to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the Declaration on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development,[8] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings;

21. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly", and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the question to the Assembly at that session.

[8] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234.